

Abstract

Inhibitors of $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin that target beta 4 are used as therapeutic agents to inhibit tumorigenesis in individuals, including humans, of tumors that express $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin. The therapeutic agent may be an antibody or a small molecule, for example a laminin-5 analog, which binds to $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin and inhibits its normal function. The therapeutic agent may also be a chemical species that interferes with the production of beta 4, including for example an antisense or RNAi species. The therapeutic agent is administered to the tissue or patient in a therapeutically effective amount. The therapeutic agent may be used as a single agent or in combination with other therapies, especially those directed toward suppressing the activity of RPTKs known to cooperate with $\alpha 6 \beta 4$, including but not limited to ErbB2, EGF-R, Met, and Ron.